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THE THREATENED PROSECUTION OF THE "MUSICAL TIMES."

London, 69, Dean-street, Soho, 21st July, 1854.

SIR,—I enclose copies of correspondence relative to a threatened prosecution of "The Musical Times," commenced so long since as the 8th May.

By the last letter (from the Attorney-General), you will see it is said, "that the further consideration of the matter and the decision rests with you, and not with the Law Officers of the Crown;"—but that it must await your amended health. I am glad to find from your attendance at the House of Commons, since Monday, that you have recovered from your late serious illness.

The very unsatisfactory state of the law as it affects me and my future proceedings must be my excuse for once more urgently soliciting that some intelligible determination may be come to before the close of the present session. The Attorney-General says he entertains no doubt "that Class Publications (amongst the hundreds of which my Paper takes rank) are liable to Stamp duty, and that the decision that may be come to on the general question will obviously have a material bearing on my case." I propose going to Nice for some time, and it would be a matter of serious anxiety to leave England with a prosecution pending over me, for printing what is admitted to be a "very meritorious publication."

The Law has been so very unequally enforced as to make it practically impossible to carry on any periodical publication, without either great risk of incurring ruinous penalties, or suffering competition from reckless persons, who are encouraged by impunity to further breaches of the law, which should be a support to those who pay the duty.

I can more becomingly press for some settlement of the course to be taken in this matter, because several hundred persons are suffering from similar perils arising wholly from the delay and indecision of Government.

I hope (for them and myself), that under any circumstances the Session may not pass without our having public assurance that all prosecutions shall be suspended and immunity granted to continue our present courses, until after the Government plan be settled, and that we may have full and fair warning when all may start on an equal race for public favor, guided and protected by a well-defined law. I am, Sir, your much obliged Servant,

J. ALFRED NOVELLO.

The Right Hon. E. W. Gladstone,
Chancellor of the Exchequer, &c. &c.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Our readers are reminded, that the Musical Times will appear only on the 1st of each month, until next February.

We would request those who send us country newspapers, wishing us to read particular paragraphs, to mark the passage, by cutting a slit in the paper near it.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

Colored Envelopes are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.

The late hour at which Advertisements reach us interferes much with their proper classification.

G. B. A.—We know of no society which regularly gives prizes for Glees, open to general competition: the exceptions are generally advertised in our paper.

Brief Chronicle of the last Fortnight.

MISS CHARLOTTE FOX.—*The Examiner* speaks very highly of this young lady's performance on the occasion of her first public appearance as a pianist, at the Hanover Square Rooms. She is a pupil of Mrs. Anderson; and while the choice of piece selected for her playing (Beethoven's Sonata in G, Op. 14,) bore testimony to the refined and sterling school in which she has studied, the excellence of her style did justice to the admirable teaching of her instructress.

ROUBILIAC's statue of Handel, commanded from the sculptor by Mr. Jonathan Tyers, which so long occupied a place of state in Vauxhall Gardens, has just been purchased by the Sacred Harmonic Society.

JULLIEN, and the members of his orchestra, during their passage home by the A. abia, gave a concert on board, realising the sum of £42 18s., which sum has been handed to the treasurer of the Sailors' Home.

BLACKBURN.—It is expected that the splendid new organ for the Independent Chapel, Chapel-street, will be opened on the 27th inst., by H. Smart, Esq., of London, when a selection of sacred music will be performed by the choir, aided by the Blackburn Choral Society.—*Manchester Examiner*.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE, Oxford Street.—The lease of these extensive premises is announced for sale on the 3rd of August.

DUDLEY.—Mr. Vanes, the late organist, on his retirement, has been presented with an elegant silver inkstand, scores of the oratorios of Mendelssohn's *St. Paul* and Haydn's *Seasons*, purchased by general subscription; and a silver paper-knife, gold pen and pencil-case, as the special gift of the choir. Mr. Henry Eyland succeeds M. Vanes in his post, as organist of St. Edmund's Church.

THE WORCESTER MUSICAL FESTIVAL takes place this year, under the especial patronage of Her Majesty the Queen, and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, on the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th of September next; and the highest artistic talent is already engaged. Among the vocal performers, are included the names of Madame Clara Novello, Madame Castellan, Madame Weiss, Miss Dolby, and Madame Viardot; Messrs. Sims Reeves, Gardoni, Weiss, Lockey, and Formes.

WHITTINGTON CLUB.—On the 20th of July, an illustrative lecture on the harp, was given by Mr. Boleyn Reeves. The entertainment included several compositions by Mr. Reeves, which he executed with finished taste and skill.

LIVERPOOL.—On the occasion of Mr. P. Twist resigning his appointment as Master of the school and choir of St. Andrews, he was presented, by his pupils, with the beautiful edition of Handel's oratorios, published by Mr. Novello.

MR. W. E. EVANS, of Cheltenham, gave a concert at Willis's Rooms, on the 19th July, for the purpose of proving the possibility of executing classical instrumental compositions on three and four concertinas.

MR. BLAGROVE's fourth and last Violin Soirée took place on the 20th July. Mr. Blagrove gave evidence of the versatility of his style and powers, by playing respective compositions of Molique, Ernst, Paganini, Beethoven, and Mayseder.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL, LIVERPOOL.—This magnificent edifice is to be opened early in September next, by a Morning and Evening Concert, for which the services of Madame Clara Novello are already secured. Sir Henry Bishop will have the direction of the music.

NORTHAMPTON CHORAL SOCIETY.—This society performed Handel's Oratorio, *Solomon*, on the 4th July. This Oratorio numbers among its choruses some of the finest efforts of Handel's noble genius. We may instance, "From the censer curling rise," "Praise the Lord," "From the East unto the West," and "May no rash intruder." The execution of these by the band and choir was worthy of great praise. The principal vocalists engaged for this occasion were Miss Messent, Miss Lascelles, and Mr. Montem Smith. Mr. McKorkell presided at the organ with his usual ability.

AMERSHAM.—Mr. W. H. Birch gave a Morning and Evening Concert on the 4th July, assisted by a band and chorus of 40. The proceeds were for the wives and families of the soldiers and sailors ordered to the East.

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|----|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|---|
| 11 | { Magnificat, in A | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 0 |
| | { Nunc dimittis, in A | ... | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 12 | { Magnificat, in A minor | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 9 |
| | { Nunc dimittis, in A minor | ... | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 13 | { Magnificat, in E flat | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 6 |
| | { Nunc dimittis, in E flat | ... | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 14 | { Cantate Domino, in E | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 9 |
| | { Deus miseratur, in E | ... | ... | ... | ... | | |

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